



ABRAM HATCH

Successful merchant and business leader.

Mr. Hatch was born on a farm within the shadow of the Green mountains of Vermont, Jan. 3, 1830, being a son of Hezekiah and Aldura Sumner Hatch. He received a common school education in the rural district schools of Lincoln and Bristol. His mother died when he was ten years old and was buried at Lincoln, Vermont, and his father died a year later at Nauvoo, Ill., where he had moved with his family after embracing the Mormon faith. Young Abram was in Nauvoo at the time the Mormon prophet and his brother Hyrum were killed at the Carthage jail. In 1851 he came to Utah, arriving in Salt Lake valley on the 15th of September and the next spring went to Lehi where he wooed and won Miss Permilia Jane Lott. They were married December 2, 1852. He went into the mercantile business at Lehi and made several trips across the plains to the Missouri river for goods.

In 1867, just after his return from European mission, he was called by President Young to go to Wasatch county, and on the second day of December, of that year, was ordained presiding Bishop of this county, to succeed Bishop Joseph S. Murdock, who was called to establish a settlement in Arizona.

He was appointed probate Judge by the Legislative Assembly which met that winter, and on the first of June 1868, he took charge of the municipal affairs of this county, which office he held until 1874.

The Wasatch Stake was organized in 1877 and Mr. Hatch was chosen as Stake President. He held this office until February 10, 1901, when he was succeeded by Wm. H. Smart.

In 1880, his wife died and two years later he married Miss Ruth Woolley, daughter of Bishop Edwin R. Woolley of Salt Lake.

There is no need to mention here what he has done for the people of this county. While he has looked after the interests of Abram Hatch, he has also had an eye to the welfare of the county and its people. His advice to the people has always been to "keep out of debt." It has been the boast of the people here that the county did not owe a dollar and "its warrants were always worth one hundred cents on the dollar." And there is no denying the fact that this condition is largely due to the counsel and influence of Abram Hatch.

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Hon. Abram Hatch has been one of the most conspicuous figures in the history of Wasatch county. Ecclesiastically he was presiding bishop and stake president of Wasatch county for thirty-three years; politically he was probate Judge for six years and representative to the territorial legislature twenty-two years; commercially, he has been one of the leading merchants of this county for thirty-nine years, besides being a leading figure in stock raising, farming, milling and other industrial pursuits. To use a slang phrase, since his advent here, he has come very nearly being "it" in this county.

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